



**For Immediate Release**

Easton, MD – May 4, 2022

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**Talbot County Council Meeting Highlights, Tuesday, May 3, 2022**

*These highlights only reflect the business items covered from the Council's approved agenda. To view the complete County Council meeting, please visit: Talbot County Meeting Videos - Talbot County, Maryland ([www.talbotcountymd.gov](http://www.talbotcountymd.gov)).*

**Introduction of Dan Schneckenburger, new Executive Director, Upper Shore Workforce Investment Board** – Dan McDermott, Executive Director, Upper Shore Workforce Investment Board (USWIB) announced his retirement after over 25 years of service with the USWIB and introduced Dan Schneckenburger who has been appointed the new Executive Director. Council thanked Mr. McDermott for his service and welcomed Mr. Schneckenburger. The USWIB is part of the National American Job Center network and provides career and training services to employers and job seekers in the Caroline, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's and Talbot counties.

**Proclamation: National Correctional Officers and Employees Week – May 1 – May 7, 2022** – Council unanimously approved a proclamation declaring May 1 – May 7, 2022 as *National Correctional Officers and Employees Week* and recognized the important work Correctional Officers and Employees provide in public safety 24 hours per day, seven days per week, 365 days per year. The proclamation was presented to Terry Kokolis, Director, Talbot County Department of Corrections and staff in attendance. Director Kokolis stated, "The Department of Corrections has always been the most significant part of public safety, but yet least known and least recognized. My staff provide commendable service and deserve today's recognition - the strength and fortitude of the Department of Corrections lies with my staff." Council member Pack noted, "I cannot say enough good things about the Department of Corrections. The Department of Corrections is vital to public safety – how we treat incarcerated citizens and provide services to them is critically important."

**Proclamation: Older Americans Month – May 2022 – "Age My Way"** – Council unanimously approved a proclamation declaring May 2022 as *Older Americans Month* and urged the public to recognize the contributions older citizens make to the community to help create an inclusive society, and to join efforts to support older Americans' choices about how they age in their communities. The proclamation was presented to Andy Hollis, Executive Director, Upper Shore Aging, Inc. who accepted along with Bill Shrieves, Chair, Board of Directors, Upper

Shore Aging, Inc., Childlene Brooks, Manager, Brookletts Place, Talbot Senior Center and Ann DeMart, Manager, Bay Hundred Senior Center. Ms. Brooks invited the Council to attend the “Age My Way” expo to be held at Brookletts Place on Friday, May 13, 2022 from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Council thanked representatives in attendance for the work they do to provide services to our senior citizens. Council member Divilio stated “I am a huge fan of our senior centers. There is an invaluable amount of resources at both Brookletts Place and the Bay Hundred Senior Center. It’s vital that seniors feel connected to their community and that’s exactly what senior centers offer through meals, activities and socialization.”

### **Public Hearings:**

The Council held two public hearings.

The first on the Constant Yield. Vice President Leshar read the following statement into the record:

*The County Council, in the FY 2023 Proposed Budget, is proposing to adopt a real property tax rate of 68.20 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation for all properties located outside the incorporated towns. This is 2.55 cents higher than the current real property tax rate. This rate is 5.3% higher than the constant yield rate of 64.76 cents, and will generate \$1,694,247 more in property tax revenues in FY 2023 from the unincorporated area of the County.*

*Properties located within the Incorporated Towns will again be granted a tax rate differential which sets their real property tax rates between 6.01 and 13.3 cents lower than the County rate. The County real property tax rates for properties located within the Towns are higher than the constant yield rate for the Towns.*

*The County Council will not adopt the FY 2023 Tax rate today. The FY 2023 Tax Rate will be adopted as part of the FY 2022 – 2023 Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance, currently scheduled for adoption on Tuesday, May 17, 2022.*

There were no public comments offered on the Constant Yield.

Council member Price left the meeting at 2:30 p.m. for an obligation with her service as President of the Maryland Association of Counties Board of Directors and noted she will be listening to the livestream of the budget public hearings this afternoon and this evening.

The Council held a public hearing on Bill No. 1498, AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE 2022-2023 ANNUAL BUDGET AND APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE. County Manager Clay Stamp, Acting Finance Director Ken Davis and County Engineer Ray Clarke provided a Powerpoint presentation with an overview of the FY23 proposed budget of \$112,607,000. Bill No. 1498 will be eligible for vote on Tuesday, May 17, 2022 and written comments will be accepted until Wednesday, May 4, 2022. Bill No. 1498 is available for review on the County’s website at [www.talbotcountymd.gov](http://www.talbotcountymd.gov). Vice President Leshar noted that Council will continue the public hearing this evening at 7:00 p.m. at the Easton Elementary School Cafeteria, 307 Glenwood Avenue in Easton.

## **County Manager's Report:**

Request to Transfer Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) Housing Bond Allocation – Council approved the transfer of \$1,425,386 of the total tax-exempt housing bond allocation to the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development to issue bonds to fund housing programs or to issue mortgage credit certificates.

The Council meeting recessed at 3:05 p.m.

The Council meeting reconvened at 7:00 p.m. at the Easton Elementary School Cafeteria, 307 Glenwood Avenue, Easton for a continuation of the public hearing on Bill No. 1498.

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The County Council's next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 10 beginning at 6:00 p.m. The Council will be convening in Open Session at 2:30 p.m. for an annual meeting with Maryland Association of Counties (MACo President Laura Price and Executive Director Michael Sanderson) in the Bradley Meeting Room. At 3:30 p.m. the Council will hold a Work Session on final budget deliberations in association with Bill No. 1498 and then adjourn into Closed Session, to discuss real estate, legal and personnel matters as listed on the Statement for Closing that Meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

**Captions:**

**#1: Talbot County Department of Corrections staff accepting proclamation for National Correctional Officers and Employees Week (May 1 – May 7, 2022).**



First row: Council member Corey Pack; Department of Corrections Director Terry Kokolis

Second row: Taray Wright; Cindy Green (partially hidden); Erika White; Andrew Minner; and Thomas Waite

Third row: Pierre Tue; Chris Tyler (partially hidden); Vernon Cephas; Steven Craig; Thomas Lally

Fourth row: Council member Frank Divilio; Council Vice President Pete Lesher; Council President Chuck Callahan; Council member Laura Price



**#1: Upper Shore Aging, Inc. staff accepting proclamation for Older Americans Month (May 2022).**



First row: Council member Frank Divilio; Brookletts Place Manager Childlene Brooks; Upper Shore Aging, Inc. Executive Director Andy Hollis; Council Vice President Pete Leshar; Bay Hundred Senior Center Manager Ann DeMart; Chair, Upper Shore Aging, Inc. Board of Directors Bill Shrieves

Second row: Council President Chuck Callahan; Council member Laura Price; Council member Corey Pack